

Female Combat Veterans Focus of Film

LIONESS Screening on Tuesday, March 31 * 11:45 a.m.* Cannon 334

Dear Colleague:

By now you should have received an invitation to attend a special screening and discussion event featuring the acclaimed documentary “LIONESS,” a film by Meg McLagan and Daria Sommers on Tuesday, March 31st at 11:45 AM. LIONESS tells the story of the first group of women Army support soldiers – mechanics, clerks, and engineers to serve as Lionesses. “Lioness” is the name given to women soldiers who are regularly attached to all-male combat units for the purpose of defusing tension with Iraqi women and children.

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Location: Cannon House Office Building 334

Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Lunch and refreshments will be served.

After the screening there will be a panel discussion with members of Team Lioness featuring Spc. Shannon Morgan, Spc. Rebecca Nava, Staff Sgt. Rani Ruthig, and Maj. Anastasia Breslow. While deployed in Iraq from 2003 to 2004, these original Lioness soldiers ended up fighting in some of the bloodiest counterinsurgency battles of the Iraq war and returned home as part of this country’s first generation of female combat veterans. LIONESS makes public for the first time, their historic service and sacrifice.

The following will also provide remarks:

- Patricia S. Harrison, *President and CEO, Corporation for Public Broadcasting,*
- Brett Moseley Brown, Ed.D., *Associate Director, Center for Women Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs*
- Paul Rieckhoff, *Executive Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America*

I am asking you to take part in this unique event because of your interest in the roles of our service women in Iraq. It will be an honor for these veterans and panelists to interact with policymakers and staff members, and I am certain you will find the discussions engaging, enlightening and valuable. Your participation gives energy and support to the female combat veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

I hope you can attend this event. To RSVP, contact Amy Hogan at rsvp@itvs.org or (202) 314-5250.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER

Chairman

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs